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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2904) "An Act making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 423. An act to amend the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the establishment of Fort Clatsop National Memorial in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes".

S. 941. An act to revise the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in the State of California, to extend the term of the advisory commission for the recreation area, and for other purposes.

S. 1057. An act to authorize the addition of lands to Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park in the State of Hawaii, and for other purposes.

S. 1097. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines within the boundary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

S. 1105. An act to provide for the expeditious completion of the acquisition of State of Wyoming lands within the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate disagrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1438) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2002 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fis-

cal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes," agrees to a conference asked by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. CLELAND, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. REED, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mrs. CARNAHAN, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BUNNING, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2001, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority leader, the minority leader or the minority whip limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) for 5 minutes.

LET US BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, America has proven time and time again that when we as a people are challenged and we dedicate ourselves to meeting that challenge, nothing can stop our Nation and nothing can stop our people. On September 11, our country was challenged yet again, challenged to defend our democracy, challenged to fight for our freedom and our way of life. When we as America accept a challenge, we are usually up to that challenge. That is the history of our forefathers; that is the history of our Nation.

As Americans, we are best when challenged. We proved that during World War I, our grandfathers; our fathers proved that during World War II. Now, in our own time, passengers aboard United Flight 93 proved that when they sacrificed their own lives to save more lives on the ground. Hundreds of firefighters, police officers, and paramedics, before our own eyes, rushed to save thousands of fleeing persons from the World Trade Towers. They were up to the challenge. They proved that when it was their time, they were ready, ready to face danger, ready to sacrifice, ready to put others first. At the Pentagon, we saw that same courage, that same willingness to sacrifice.

In Afghanistan, and the throughout the world, our servicemen and women are accepting the challenge of protecting the country. When they do serve our Nation, they put themselves at risk; and they are willing to take that risk.

That is a tradition we should be proud of; it is also a tradition that we in this House should live up to. It is that time now. We in Washington, we across America, are now confronted with a new mode of terrorism in the form of anthrax. It is yet only the latest in a series of a different mode of attack upon our country and upon our democracy and upon our freedom and upon this very institution.

We should take as an example past generations, their sacrifice, their willingness to risk, their willingness, if necessary, to face danger. In the past, they have fought to protect our land. Let us take as an example their sacrifice, that of the passengers of United Flight 93, that of the firefighters in New York, that of our brave troops around the world. Let us not back down from the challenge. Let us meet it head on. Let us not give in to the terrorists. Let us not give them the pleasure of seeing this House flinch at shadows.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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With the words of FDR as an example, that "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself," a nameless, unreasonable, unjustified terror, let us not give in to that fear. President Roosevelt said those words in 1933, but they are still true today. Let us not be paralyzed in needed efforts to advance against our enemy. Let us not retreat from the floor of this House.

Let us also be willing to sacrifice as we have seen others sacrifice. Let us keep this floor open for business. Yes, it may entail some risk. Yes, it may entail some danger. But let us think of our troops in Afghanistan, what they face; let us think about those firefighters; let us think about that crew and the passengers on United Flight 93; let us think of our fathers during World War II and our grandfathers during World War I. Let us take up that same tradition.

Fear is the currency of terrorism. Let us not contribute to that fear by shuttering the doors of this House. Let us, instead, convert temporary retreat into long-term advance. Let us not tremble and be afraid. Let us be strong and courageous.

FEAR IS USELESS; WHAT IS NEEDED IS TRUST

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is such a privilege to be among the very first to rise in this Chamber after some uncertain days, to rise recognizing that timeless truth, that fear is useless, what is needed is trust.

We in this Chamber day in and day out do not only trust the American people but we trust in the God whose name is ascribed above the Speaker's chair. By reconvening here today, we make an important statement to the world, to our friends and our foes alike, that the American Government stands ready and willing and able to do the people's business even in these challenging days.

Mr. Speaker, along those lines, I rise today specifically to speak about a relationship that the United States of America enjoys. It is not difficult for Americans since September 11 to imagine living in a country made the subject of repeated attacks against our citizens and even now against our leaders. It is also easy for every American to understand why a country whose innocent citizens have been murdered and whose leaders have been attacked would take temporary and necessary military action against the government and against the perpetrators of these acts to establish a just government in the land from which these attacks were launched and also to bring to justice those who harmed those citizens and harmed those leaders.

Well, even though it is so easy to imagine and identify with that as

Americans, nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the first-ever assassination of a cabinet official in Israel, as our partners and friends since 1948 took the necessary military action to move not only against the perpetrators of this dastardly attack but also against the authorities that have harbored them and refused to bring them to justice, what did the State Department of the United States of America say, Mr. Speaker? Permit me to quote. Philip T. Reeker, State Department spokesman, spoke to the world media yesterday and accused Israel, the Nation in question, of killing "numerous innocent citizens," in its "unacceptable military action in six West Bank towns."

We have seen the tanks on the news, Mr. Speaker. We know, as foreign minister Shimon Peres said from our Nation's capital this morning, they have not the slightest intention of remaining in any of these West Bank towns. They are about the business of requiring that the Palestinian Authority bring to justice those who not only killed a cabinet official, have organized the death of innocent citizens in Israel, but also, Mr. Speaker, have boasted about it on television, just like Osama bin Laden has done. The United States said we, quote, "deeply regret and deplore Israel's actions."

What have they said of the Palestinian Authority or of Yasser Arafat or those who committed these crimes? Well, Mr. Speaker, we wrote a letter. The State Department of the United States deplores what Israel does, but we did write a letter to Yasser Arafat; not a public letter, but a very clear letter, we are told in the media, telling Arafat to make absolutely certain that the assassins were arrested.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great verse in the Bible that we have inherited from the great people of Israel. It is: "There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother, and now is a time for such friends." But why do we capitulate about Israel? I submit, Mr. Speaker, it is very simple. The reason we capitulate about Israel is because we are afraid. We are afraid, Mr. Speaker, to offend, to offend moderate Arab states that are assisting us in our own quest against a morally bankrupt government and against terrorists who attack our leaders and our innocent citizens.

But we need not be afraid. We need to recognize that fear is useless. What is needed is trust. The most powerful message we can send to our new friends in the Arab world is that we are good friends. What is a more powerful or compelling message to send to King Abdullah in Jordan or King Fahd in Saudi Arabia than to say, "When the going gets tough, when your Nation does what is necessary to be done, we will stand with you." America will always stand for justice and restraint. But America must stand with Israel.

America will stand with its friends, for fear is useless. What is needed is trust.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Pete Williams, Harvest Baptist Church, Goldsboro, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank You for this beautiful day and for all the wonderful gifts that You have given to us. We thank You for the gift of salvation through Your son, Jesus Christ. We thank You for our families. We thank You for our country and the gift of government. We especially thank You for this House where we are gathered today and for the leaders that guide and defend our Nation. We pray that You will give the wisdom and knowledge that is needed to do Your business today. We ask that at this time of uncertainty that You would give the extra grace needed for the difficult tasks ahead.

We also remember those who have recently suffered and died for our country. These are true heroes. Father, on this anniversary of the Beirut bombing, we remember those heroes also. We thank You that we are a nation that is built on the foundation of Your word. Help us keep our Nation on these never-failing principles. Heavenly Father, we are proud to be "one nation, under God" and we commend this country into Your hands. We also ask for Your hand of protection during these times and we also want to especially leave this House in the blessed arms of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. McCarthy) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.